

beer cost only a nickel. The building still stands on Victorian Avenue, and today is home to several small businesses.

The Soroptimist Club International was founded in Sparks in 1958. The Sparks' Soroptimist club was formed to make a difference for women, focusing their extensive efforts on volunteer service in the community. They sponsored the Miss Nevada Pageant and Nevada Girl's State. Additionally, the Soroptimists awarded scholarships to young women graduating from Sparks High School, raised money for books at the Sparks Library, and donated to the Gray Ladies Indigent Fund for the State Hospital.

However, no history of Sparks would be complete without mentioning John Ascuaga, a developer and entrepreneur who built Sparks' first casino: the Nugget. In May of 1958, the Nugget's ambassador became a part of the town's fabric. The "Tall Cowboy" appropriately arrived on the railroad, in pieces. When assembled, Last Chance Joe, stood thirty-two feet tall at the entrance to the Nugget.

I would also like to recognize Tony Armstrong, the former mayor of Sparks who died in January of this year. Tony's personality, his vision for the city, his management skills, and his deep humanity made him a terrific mayor and an outstanding man. It was Tony who first contacted me about the Sparks' centennial. I miss Tony and it is fitting to recognize him on this day, which he would have enjoyed so much. I wish his successor, Gino Martini, all the best and look forward to working with him on projects important to Sparks.

Finally, it is remarkable that Sparks has retained its Victorian architecture and charm. The city beckons to us as a relic of a gentler and more beautiful time. It is truly one of the jewels of northern Nevada.

A century has passed since the City of Sparks was founded. I hope you will join me in celebrating this lovely Nevada community's centennial.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, a participant in a Davis, CA, gay-pride parade was assaulted last summer. The apparent motivation for the attack was the sexual orientation of the victim.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement

Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

NOPEC

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I, again, join in the introduction of our NOPEC bill. I am sincerely sorry that this bill has not yet become law, and I hope that the situation we face as a nation will lead the Senate to recognize the toll that the OPEC producers are exacting from the American people. As gasoline prices continue to skyrocket, exceeding \$2 a gallon in many communities, we must have a real correction. As heating oil prices have soared, the President needs to take notice. Without correction and containment, consumers across the nation will continue to suffer.

The relentless increases in gasoline prices are not the result of natural supply issues. Rather, they are largely due to market manipulation by OPEC, a cartel of those controlling production and supply of oil from the Middle East. When the Antitrust Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary held its hearing on gas prices last year, experts from several fields, both in and out of government, confirmed for us what we already suspected: The higher prices are due to the OPEC cartel that sets production quotas for its members and prevents the free market from setting crude oil prices. The testimony at that hearing revealed that most of the gasoline price increase can be explained by OPEC's unfair production quotas.

The artificial pricing scheme enforced by OPEC affects all of us, not the least of whom are hardworking Vermont farmers. As USDA's Cooperative Extension Office in New Hampshire recently found, the increasing energy costs may add \$5,000 or more to the total costs of operating a 100-head dairy operation in the Northeast. In addition, soaring prices have affected a variety of industries across the United States, and will likely force many Americans to make tough choices about family travel.

Over the last year, I have expressed concern that gasoline prices would simply continue to rise. I have hardly been alone in that belief, and I am sorry to say that my prediction has borne fruit. Sadly, that fruit is bitter for those forced to pay ever higher prices to go about their daily lives. This week, the average price for regular gasoline reached \$2.00 per gallon. Our economy, our farmers, and our families need relief now. They also need good policy. In the absence of White House leadership, Congress should provide law enforcement the tools needed to fight anti-competitive practices.

If OPEC were simply a foreign business engaged in this type of behavior, it would already be subject to American antitrust law. It is wrong to let OPEC producers off the hook just because their anticompetitive practices

come with the seal of approval of the member nations. I urge the Senate to support this bill and to say "No" to OPEC.

SAVING THE IRRAWADDY DOLPHIN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue which, while not one that you would likely read about on the front page of the newspapers, is important nonetheless. It concerns the alarming rate of deterioration of the habitat of the Irrawaddy Dolphin in Southeast Asia. Recent statistics indicate that there are fewer than 100 Irrawaddy left in the world.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature has placed the Irrawaddy Dolphin on its list of critically endangered species. The primary reasons for this sharp decline include destructive fishing practices, such as the use of dynamite or electric current, and mercury runoff from gold mines. These practices are leading to the extinction of an entire species.

Why should we care? Perhaps a quote from President John Kennedy provides the best answers to this question. In a 1963 address at American University, President Kennedy said "... in the final analysis, our most basic common link, is that we all inhabit this small planet, we all breathe the same air, we all cherish our children's futures, and we are all mortal."

I know every Member of the Senate wants to make the world a better place for our children and grandchildren. I am almost as certain that ensuring the survival of the Irrawaddy dolphin, an extraordinary species, would be something that we could do to help achieve this goal.

Congress has spoken on this issue. In the Senate report that accompanied last year's Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, Congress directed the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, to devise a strategy to help reverse the habitat decline of the Irrawaddy dolphin.

Some important nongovernmental organizations are already working on this issue, including the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Bronx Zoo in their Species Survival Program partnership. I hope USAID's strategy, which is due shortly, will be a first step in forming a public-private partnership that will prevent the Irrawaddy dolphin from going the way of the dodo and the passenger pigeon.

Once a species is gone, it is gone forever. We need to be sure this does not happen.

MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK STUDY ACT

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I briefly would like to say how pleased I am that the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Study Act was enacted in the last Congress. That Act,

Public Law 108-340, directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to assess the national significance, suitability, and feasibility of designating one or more of the historically significant sites associated with the Manhattan Project as a unit of the National Park System. The significance of the Manhattan Project to this Nation—and indeed the world—would be difficult to overstate, and I believe that passing this bill was an important step in fulfilling our responsibility to ensure that society neither forgets nor misunderstands it.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleague, Senator BINGAMAN, for sponsoring that measure, and I appreciated the support of Senator DOMENICI and our colleagues from Tennessee and Washington.

The Manhattan Project stands as one of the great technological achievements of the 20th century. Therefore, it is appropriate to recognize the historical importance of the sites most closely associated with the development of the atomic bomb. This legislation has begun a process for the Secretary of the Interior to provide that recognition.

I want to call attention to the critical contributions made in Dayton, OH, toward the Manhattan Project, under what became known as the "Dayton Project." Because the Dayton Project was shrouded in secrecy, its contribution has long been overlooked. Yet, the technological achievements of the Dayton Project were among the most important to the completion of the Manhattan Project. It was in Dayton that scientists discovered how to trigger the chain reaction that unleashed the power of the atom. To continue that effort, the Atomic Energy Commission established the Mound Laboratory in Miamisburg, just southeast of Dayton.

As my colleague explained, the act directs the Secretary of the Interior to study three specifically named sites associated with the history of the Manhattan Project. I would like to ask the distinguished Senator if there is the opportunity for sites associated with the Dayton Project to be recognized?

Mr. BINGAMAN. The legislation directs the Secretary to include within the study the "historically significant sites associated with the Manhattan Project." While the bill lists three of those sites, it does not limit the study to only those sites. Additional sites may be included, and it leaves that decision to the discretion of the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and other interested Federal, State, tribal, and local officials, representatives of organizations, and members of the public. So, by those terms, there certainly is the opportunity for sites such as the Dayton Project to be included in the study.

Mr. DEWINE. I thank the Senator from New Mexico.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am pleased to commemorate International

Women's Day, celebrated on March 8. International Women's Day gives us all an opportunity to reflect on women's accomplishments around the world and to reaffirm our commitment to continuing the vitally important work of securing and advancing women's rights, particularly their health, education, and security.

Today, we can all marvel at the outstanding contributions that women make every day to their communities, their countries, and the entire world. We can reflect on the work of Wangari Maathai, the Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize winner, whose brave and insistent voice on behalf of human rights and environmental protection found an audience not just on the global stage, and not just among elites in government, but among the women of her country, who have made the Green Belt Movement a success. We can celebrate the bravery of Afghan women, who have participated in elections even as the memory of the Taliban's brutal repression of their rights remains so fresh. Women accounted for 41 percent of the October 2004 vote in Afghanistan, and women hold 102 seats of Afghanistan's Constitutional Loya Jirga. We can reflect on the wonderful welcome that Dora Bakoyiannis, the mayor of Athens, extended to the world during this year's Olympic ceremonies.

But in too many parts of the world, the basic human rights of women are violated with impunity. Human rights groups continue to report rampant violence, abuse, and rape of tens of thousands of women and children by militants in Eastern Congo who are rarely, if ever, brought to justice. The murders of more than 370 women in the Chihuahua state of Mexico since 1993 remain unsolved. Thirty more women have been killed there since 2004 and the lack of progress in these cases of brutal violence and sexual assault against women from the cities of Juárez and Chihuahua is deeply disturbing. The internally displaced women of Darfur, Sudan, too often are confronted with a horrible choice—collect firewood and risk being raped by jinjaweit militia, or watch their children go hungry. I have authored or co-sponsored legislative initiatives to address each of these crises, but I know that solutions will require hard work over the long term. I also support the U.S. ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW. Ratification of the treaty would send an important message to the international community about our commitment to the rights of women and girls.

The global, rapid progression of HIV/AIDS infection, especially in women, is undeniable. More than 40 million adults and children are infected with HIV/AIDS and over 20 million are women. UNAIDS reports that women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa make up 57 percent of HIV-positive persons in this region. Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in which women are infected with the virus at a higher rate

than men. In sub-Saharan Africa, between the ages of 15 to 24, there are on average 36 women testing positive for HIV for every 10 males. As the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on African Affairs, I have had the opportunity to travel to numerous countries in Africa and see firsthand the devastating toll that HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases are taking on the people of this continent. We must find concrete ways to address the special vulnerabilities of women and girls in our HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs.

Nearly 100 million children worldwide are not receiving an education, nearly two-thirds of them female. In countries such as Uganda and Nigeria, some teachers are expected to instruct anywhere from 175 to 215 students, single-handedly. The education of girls regularly takes a back seat to that of their male siblings and to the needs of the family in many parts of the world. In order to combat global diseases, halt violence against women, and enhance women's rights, ensuring girls are educated must be a global community priority.

In short, while there are shining examples of progress in women's rights, we have much more to do. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the efforts I have described and others to improve the lives of women.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING MAX FISHER

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, today I would like to reflect on the passing of Max Fisher. On March 3, 2005, Max Fisher passed away at his home in Franklin, MI. The Fisher family has suffered a tremendous loss, and I offer them my condolences and deepest sympathy during this difficult time.

Max Fisher was born in my hometown of Pittsburgh, PA. He was a quiet leader who led mostly by example. He inspired his neighbors through his love for and dedication to this country. As the head of several Jewish-American organizations including the United Jewish Appeal, the Council of Jewish Federations, the National Jewish Coalition, and the American Jewish Committee, Max Fisher was able to influence policy with regard to Israeli-American relations and lead an international campaign for Israel after the Arab-Israeli War in 1967.

Max Fisher was a respected friend and adviser to many Republican Presidents and Secretaries, as they sought Max's wisdom in Middle East affairs.

Max not only leaves behind a legacy in the Jewish community and the world of politics, but also a wonderful family. My thoughts and prayers are with the Fisher family during the days and months ahead. •